

17 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with William Harris of the Murphy Commission

1. Bill Harris called today to report the visit he had had with Seymour Hersh and the content of that discussion. He noted that Hersh had reported that the New York Times article on Sunday concerning the Director's position was a conscious leak from a high-level source in the White House. He registered displeasure with this kind of Washington politics, but observed that, "That's the way things work." I offered no comment.

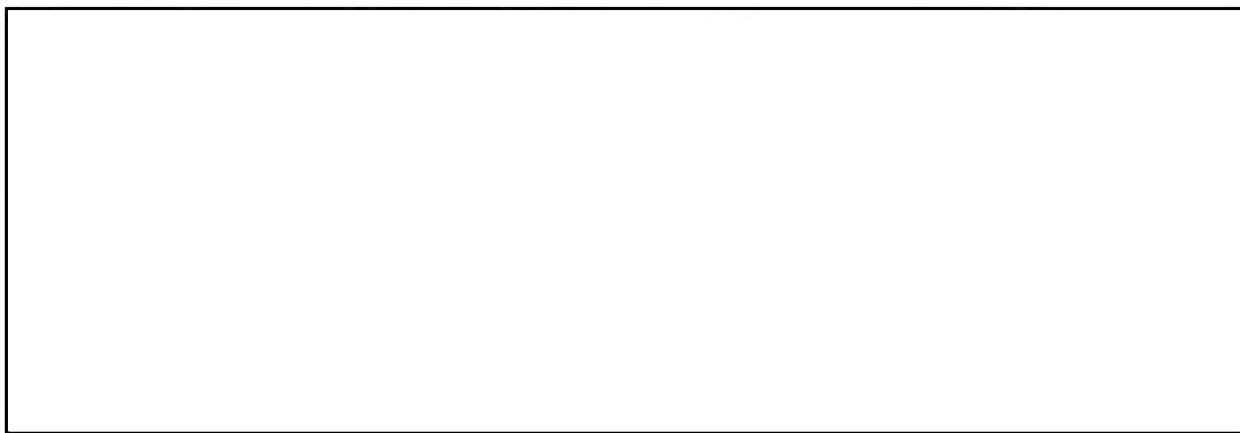
2. Harris also reported that he had seen in Hersh's office a compilation of bits and pieces which begin to make up a rather revealing story about NSA and the U.S. cryptologic effort. (I've advised General Allen.) He observed there needs to be an infusion of security into that activity by NSA and the Services, noting that the information seemed to come from youth leaving the Service who would elaborate on all they knew to a pioneering reporter. He observed that some kind of letter to retirees would also seem to be in order. He also suggested that perhaps some kind of seminar for members of the press wherein the dangers of such disclosures and the losses that this could incur to the U.S. intelligence could be frankly covered. (I am reminded of Allen Dulles' sessions at the Alibi Club.) He noted that the sources of Hersh's information seemed not to distinguish between what is fair game for the press and that which will destroy intelligence channels.

3. Harris observed that the [redacted] secret was an open matter among the press and that he detected a pique on the part of Hersh who has been cut off from printing on same by his publishers. He reported Hersh is convinced the story will leak in time - a story that he had personally scooped.

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

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5. Harris also registered concern about the apparent layering of management on sensitive subjects! He observed that this was a matter the President's Commission seemed concerned with and that it was a matter that Bill Miller had registered interest in during a recent discussion Harris had had with him. He reported that Bill Miller and he were having dinner that evening and that he planned to provide Miller some thoughts on the intelligence structure that grew out of Harris' exposure with the Murphy Commission.

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7. Lastly, he raised the question of Jim Angleton and stated that the whole issue of a constructive use of counterintelligence as a warning process needs to be reviewed. He expressed a strong opinion that counterintelligence had become archaic and defensive "under Angleton and his crowd" while it should have been contributing important indications and warning information from identification and tracking of conscious deception and misinformation. He stated he had discussed this matter with elements in Defense responsible for generating that kind of information on our own warning systems and with Andy Marshall and others who generally agreed that this field had been neglected.

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AD/DCI/IC

Addendum: Mr. Harris called again on 18 March to say that as result of yesterday's dinner with Miller, he is going to write for him an analytic summary of organizational and legal issues arising out of the Murphy Commission and that he was going to revise for a law review article a previous paper he had written. The latter task he will do as a private citizen.

JMC

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